

MUSEUM THEATRE

KentuckyHistoricalSociety



*nothing new
for Easter*

Shopping for Civil Rights

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

100 West Broadway • Frankfort, Ky. • 40601 • 502.564.1792 • www.history.ky.gov

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of
the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.

www.history.ky.gov

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Shopping for Civil Rights

Nothing New for Easter is inspired by oral history accounts of a boycott staged in 1961 by Louisville African Americans to send a message to department stores that barred blacks from their dressing rooms. Collected as part of a major project on the effort to eliminate legal segregation in Kentucky from 1930 to 1970, these oral histories chronicle the activities of both women and men in the movement. Although rarely recognized in history texts, these individuals of all ages from all walks of life struggled to achieve equality.

Mattie Eleanor Lewis is a fictional character who represents a typical teenager of the era. Her concerns about her appearance and her reputation compete with her interest in the movement. Her monologue traces her awakening to a cause worth fighting for, culminating in her decision to join CORE (Congress of Racial Equality).

Ashlie Woods performs the piece, which was written by Louisville playwright Karen Edwards-Hunter. The actress will perform the 10-minute monologue, and then invite questions from the audience.

To learn more about the civil rights movement in Kentucky:

- Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky Oral History Project. Visit www.history.ky.gov and click "search our collections."
- Crawford, Vicki L., Editor. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990.
- Hardin, John A. *Fifty Years of Segregation: Black Higher Education in Kentucky, 1904-1954*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1997.
- Powers, Georgia Davis. *I Shared the Dream*. Far Hills, New Jersey: New Horizons Press, 1995.
- Wright, George C. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky, Vol. 2: In Pursuit of Equality, 1890-1980*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992.

KHS Museum Theatre

Since 1998, the Museum Theatre program has staged more than forty original productions, often inspired by the rich resources in the Kentucky Historical Society collection. Each play is presented within KHS exhibition spaces and is designed to connect audiences with the sights, sounds, and stories of the past. These professional productions provide museum visitors with a personal perspective of historical characters and encourage them to explore the exhibitions to learn more. Audience members often find they relate to the story itself. *What's your story?*

Mattie Eleanor Lewis – Ashlie Woods

Danville native, Ashlie Woods is a recent graduate of Berea College with a degree in Speech Communication and a minor in African American Studies. After graduation, she accepted a full-time position as a museum guide and educator at KHS. *Nothing New for Easter* is Ashlie's debut performance.

Playwright – Karen Edwards-Hunter

Karen is an artist, educator arts administrator and creative writer. She is founder and director of the JACKY Teen Royale Theatre Company, a 2000-2003 artist-in-residence at Actors Theatre Louisville, and founder and director of the Advanced Stage Theatre Company. She has also been an artist-in-residence at Jefferson County Public Schools and the Kentucky Arts Council.



Codirector – Greg Hardison

A native of North Carolina and Virginia, Kentucky Historical Society Museum Theatre Coordinator Greg Hardison has lived in Kentucky for over eight years. Greg has served as playwright, director, actor, and designer for over 40 original KHS Museum Theatre productions.

Codirector – Adam Luckey

Since graduating from Georgetown College in 1999, Adam has worked extensively with most of the theatres in Central Kentucky. He teaches with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kentucky, is an associate artist with Actors Guild of Lexington, and is the Museum Theatre specialist for the Kentucky Historical Society.

Costume construction: Deb Rogers

Photo credits: (cover) Easter Sunday morning, Frankfort, Ky., ca. 1950s. (inside, from left) Rosenwald Elementary School, Frankfort, Ky., ca. 1957. Easter morning, Frankfort, Ky., 1957. Strattan's Pharmacy, Louisville, Ky., 1948. KHS Collections. Special thanks: KHS Oral History Collection, Raoul Cunningham, Georgia Powers, Mike Thomas, Alexandra Thomas, Weyeneshet Lake